AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined ("___") being added and the language that contains strikethrough ("—") being deleted:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

receiving an email message having a word;

generating a phonetic equivalent of the ~~word;~~ word from the email message;

tokenizing the phonetic equivalent of the word to generate a token representative of the phonetic equivalent; ~~and~~

determining a spam probability from the generated ~~token.~~ token;

in response to determining the spam probability from the generated token, assigning whether the token exists in a database of tokens;

in response to determining that the token exists in the database of tokens, updating a probability value of the token; and

in response to determining that the token does not exist in the database of tokens, assigning a probability value indicative of spam to the token.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ generating the phonetic equivalent of the word ~~comprises the steps of:~~ comprises:

identifying a string of characters, the string of characters including a non-alphabetic ~~characters;~~ character; and

removing the non-alphabetic character from the string of characters.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ removing

the non-alphabetic character ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

locating a non-alphabetic character within the string of characters, the non-alphabetic character being at least one selected from the group consisting of:

" (quote);

' (single quote);

! (exclamation mark);

@ (at);

(pound);

$ (dollar);

% (percent);

^ (caret);

& (ampersand);

* (asterisk);

((open parenthesis);

) (close parenthesis);

_ (underscore);

- (hyphen);

+ (plus);

= (equal);

\ (backslash);

/ (slash);

? (question mark);

(space);

(tab);

[(open square bracket);

] (close square bracket);

{ (open bracket);

} (close bracket);

< (less than);

> (greater than);

, (comma);

: (colon);

; (semi-colon);

and . (period).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the spam probability ~~comprises the steps of:~~ comprises:

assigning a spam probability value to the token; and

generating a Bayesian probability value using the spam probability value assigned to the token.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the spam probability further ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

comparing the generated Bayesian probability value with a predefined threshold value.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining the spam probability further ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

categorizing the email message as spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being greater than the predefined threshold.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~the step of~~ determining

the spam probability further ~~comprises the step of:~~ comprises:

categorizing the email message as non-spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being not greater than the predefined threshold.

8. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

means for receiving an email message having a word;

means for generating a phonetic equivalent of the ~~word;~~ word from the email message;

means for tokenizing the phonetic equivalent of the word to generate a token representative of the phonetic equivalent; and

means for determining a spam probability from the generated token.

9. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, the memory storing:

receive logic configured to receive an email message having a word;

phonetic logic configured to generate a phonetic equivalent of the ~~word;~~ word from the email message;

tokenize logic configured to tokenize the phonetic equivalent of the word to generate a token representative of the phonetic equivalent; and

spam-determination logic configured to determine a spam probability from the generated token.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

string-identification logic configured to identify a string of characters, the string of

characters including a non-alphabetic ~~characters;~~ character; and

character-removal logic configured to remove the non-alphabetic character from the string of characters.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 10, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

spam-probability logic configured to assign a spam probability value to the token; and

Bayesian logic configured to generate a Bayesian probability value using the spam probability value assigned to the token.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

compare logic configured to compare the generated Bayesian probability value with a predefined threshold value.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

spam-categorization logic configured to categorize the email message as spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being greater than the predefined threshold.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

spam-categorization logic configured to categorize the email message as non-spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being not greater than the predefined threshold.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:

a processor; and

a memory, the memory storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to receive an email message having a word;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate a phonetic equivalent of the ~~word;~~ word from the email message;

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to tokenize the phonetic equivalent of the word to generate a token representative of the phonetic equivalent; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to determine a spam probability from the generated token.

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to identify a string of characters, the string of characters including a non-alphabetic ~~characters;~~ character; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to remove the non-alphabetic character from the string of characters.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 15, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to assign a spam probability value to the token; and

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to generate a Bayesian probability value using the spam probability value assigned to the token.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to compare the generated Bayesian probability value with a predefined threshold value.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to categorize the email message as spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being greater than the predefined threshold.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, ~~further comprising:~~ the memory further storing:

computer-readable code adapted to instruct a programmable device to categorize the email message as non-spam in response to the Bayesian probability value being not greater than the predefined threshold.